REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 11, 19, 26, 28 and 29 are independent claims.

The Specification has been amended slightly only to correct minor informalities. Such modifications do not add new matter to the disclosure.

35 U.S.C. §102(b) Rejections

Claims 1-14, 19-21 and 25-30 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Maniwa '866 (U.S. Patent No. 5,764,866). This rejection, insofar as it pertains to the presently pending claims, is respectfully traversed.

Maniwa '866 is directed to a system of workstations and a digital copier, interconnected by a network. In Maniwa '866, settings for the scan process must be selected at the scan console, either by specifying values or by selecting a pre-programmed set of scan settings (this is called a "scan file" in Maniwa). Scan files containing scan settings may be sent to and stored in the copier controller from a user workstation for later use.

In Maniwa '866, the scanned document (data) is called a "scan image file" and is stored in the hard disk of the controller in the copier. Once the scanning is completed at the copier, the user walks back to his workstation and contacts the copier controller via the network. The controller gives access to the stored scan image files. The user may now select a particular scan image file to upload it to

his workstation via the network. The user may also command an image processing operation to be performed on the selected scan image file by the copier controller, when the scan image file is still in the copier hard disk. These image processing operations are directly controlled by the user from his workstation, by sending commands.

That is, in Maniwa '866, any additional processing of the scan image file in the server is manually controlled by the user. In other words, Maniwa '866's scan image files sent from the copier to the server lack meta data for controlling an operation of the server. In this regard, the packets sent from the scanner to the host include the scanned image data (see col. 73, lines 8-17 of Maniwa '866) but no meta data as set forth in claim 1. As such, in Maniwa '866, there is no automatically further processing the scan image file in the server in a way specified by the metadata.

In contrast, according to Applicants' invention, the scan image files (referred to as "scan data files" in Applicant's disclosure) carry information as to what should be done with them when they reach their destination (the image server), and no further control by the user is required. Any processing is specified in advance by the user through the copier console, put in the meta data by the copier controller and included in the scan image file (scan data file). Next, the scan image file is sent to the server, where the meta data are read and the processing specifications are extracted. Then, the server processes the scan image file (scan data file) accordingly.

Therefore, Maniwa '866 does not anticipate, *inter alia*:

> automatically synthesizing a scan data file including scan data
> generated during the scanning step and meta data relating to
> properties of said specific scan job type, said meta data including
> data for controlling an operation of an image server;
> transmitting the scan data file to the image server; ...
> automatically further processing the scan data file in the image server
> in a way specified by said meta data

as recited in independent claim 1.

Regarding independent claims 11, 19, 26, 28 and 29, each of these claims requires that the meta data includes an application selector code field or an application selector code which specifies a further processing step in the server for further processing the scan data/file.

As discussed above, in Maniwa '866, the packet sent from the scanner to the host includes the scan image data but no metadata, e.g., an application selector code, which would instruct the server on how to further process the scan image data. In stead of such metadata, the user in Maniwa '866 manually controls such processing of the scan image data. Therefor, Maniwa '866 does not anticipate the invention as set forth in independent claims 11, 19, 26, 28 and 29.

Accordingly, the rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

Claims 11, 14-19, 21-24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Maniwa et al. '483 (U.S. Patent 5,768,483). This rejection, insofar as it pertains to the presently pending claims, is respectfully traversed.

Maniwa et al. '483 stores scan profiles on the server 104 and the digital copier 102 as shown in Figure 8. However, once the scanning is completed, a file of the

scan image data is transmitted back to the file server 104 and does not include any metadata having an application selector code which specifies a further processing step in the server for further processing the scan image data. At column 23, lines 27-32, Maniwa et al. '483 mentions that the title of the scan profile itself can be used as the title of the scan image file in case no specific title is given to the scan image file. However, the use of the scan profile title as the title of the scan image file is merely for identification purposes and such title in no way can be equivalent to "an application selector code which specifies a further processing step in the server for further processing the scan data" as required in independent claims 11 and 19 from which claims 14-18 and 21-24 depend.

Therefore, Maniwa et al. '483 does not anticipate the invention as set forth in claims 11 and 19 and their dependent claims due to their dependency. Accordingly, the rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the application is in condition for allowance and an issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.
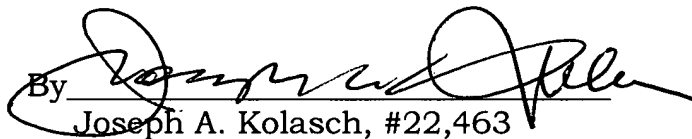
Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicant(s) respectfully petition(s) for a one (1) month extension of time for filing a reply in connection with the present application, and the required fee of $120.00 is attached hereto.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Esther H. Chong (Reg. No. 40,953) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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